

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 7, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 30

Introduced by Assembly Members Liu, Chan, Chu, Nakano, and Yee

(Principal coauthor: Senator Vasconcellos)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Berg, Bermudez, Canciamilla, Chavez, Cohn, Corbett, Correa, Diaz, Dutra, Dymally, Firebaugh, Frommer, Goldberg, Hancock, Jerome Horton, Jackson, Kehoe, Koretz, Laird, Leno, Levine, Lieber, Longville, Lowenthal, Matthews, Montanez, Mullin, Nation, Negrete McLeod, Nunez, Oropeza, Parra, Pavley, Reyes, Ridley-Thomas, Salinas, Simitian, Steinberg, Vargas, and Wolk)

(Coauthors: Senators Alpert and Bowen)

April 10, 2003

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 30—Relative to Japanese American World War II Internment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 30, as amended, Liu. Japanese American World War II Internment.

This measure would, among other things, condemn the statements made by Congressman Howard Coble regarding the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, urge him to apologize, and encourage him to resign from the chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security of the Judiciary Committee of the United States House of Representatives.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive
2 Order 9066, which ordered the incarceration of more than 120,000
3 American citizens of Japanese ancestry and resident aliens in the
4 internment camps during World War II; and

5 WHEREAS, The Commission on Wartime Relocation and
6 Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) was established by Congress
7 and signed into Public Law 96-317 by President Jimmy Carter on
8 July 31, 1980; and

9 WHEREAS, The CWRIC was established to review and
10 analyze the official government contention, historically accepted,
11 that the exclusion, forced removal, and detention of Americans of
12 Japanese ancestry were justified by military necessity; and

13 WHEREAS, Between July and December 1981, the CWRIC
14 held 20 days of hearings and took testimony from more than 750
15 witnesses; and

16 WHEREAS, The CWRIC declared in its summary that
17 “Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity, and
18 the decisions that followed from it-exclusion, detention, the
19 ending of detention and the ending of exclusion-were not founded
20 upon military considerations. The broad historical causes that
21 shaped these decisions were race prejudice, war hysteria, and a
22 failure of political leadership”; ~~and leadership~~; and

23 WHEREAS, In response to this finding, Congress adopted the
24 Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-383), which was signed into
25 law by President Ronald Reagan; and

26 WHEREAS, The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 states that
27 Congress, on behalf of the nation, apologizes to Americans of
28 Japanese ancestry for their wrongful incarceration; and

29 WHEREAS, President George Bush wrote in his 1990 letter of
30 apology to each Japanese American, “A monetary sum and words
31 alone cannot restore lost years or erase painful memories; neither
32 can they fully convey our Nation’s resolve to rectify injustice and
33 to uphold the rights of individuals. We can never fully right the
34 wrongs of the past. But we can take a clear stand for justice and
35 recognize that serious injustices were done to Japanese Americans
36 during ~~World War II~~”; ~~and World War II~~; and

37 WHEREAS, Representative Howard Coble of North Carolina,
38 who chairs the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland
39 Security of the Judiciary Committee of the United States House of
40 Representatives, had made comments on a radio call-in program

indicating that the internment of Japanese Americans was in their best interests; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Coble, stated, “We were at war,” and called Japanese Americans “an endangered species.” He added that, “For many of these Japanese Americans, it wasn’t safe for them to be on the street”; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Coble said some Japanese Americans “probably were intent on doing harm to us ... just as some of these Arab Americans are probably intent on doing harm to us”; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Coble’s comments are insulting, inflammatory, and inconsistent with the findings of the CWRIC, inconsistent with the federal Civil Liberties Act of 1988, and inconsistent with the letter of apology issued by President George Bush; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California hereby condemns the statements made by Congressman Howard Coble as insulting, inflammatory, inaccurate, and inconsistent with the findings of the CWRIC, inconsistent with the letter of apology issued by President George Bush, and inconsistent with the laws passed by Congress; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California urges Congressman Coble to apologize for his inaccurate statements regarding the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California encourages Congressman Coble to submit his resignation as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security of the Judiciary Committee of the United States House of Representatives; and be it further

~~*Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California urges Speaker Dennis Hastert to take action to remove Congressman Coble from this chairmanship if he does not resign; and be it further*~~

~~*Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California urges President George W. Bush to repudiate Congressman Coble’s statements regarding the Japanese American internment during World War II; and be it further*~~

1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly provide a copy
2 of this resolution to Congressman Coble and to every other
3 member of the United States Congress and to the President of the
4 United States; and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly provide a copy
6 of this resolution to each member of the State Legislature of North
7 Carolina and to the Governor of North Carolina to encourage them
8 to take actions similar to those described in this resolution.

